



September 4, 2022
Worship Service
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WeAreLifeBridge.com

JAMES: Real Faith, Real Life

Lesson Fourteen • James 3:1-12

The Tongue's Toxic Talk

The number one poison on the planet is **TOXIC TALK!**

Conversation that contains a poison causing serious harm or death!

The number one source is **THE TONGUE!**

The one muscle in your body that receives more exercise and less control than any other!

Toxic Talk Is Pandemic!

- Everybody has **RECEIVED** its deadly poison.
- Everybody **SPREADS** its deadly poison. *Romans 3:10, 13-14; 1Peter 2:22-23*
- Everybody is better at **DIAGNOSING** it in others than themselves.

The Toxic Talk of the Tongue

1. The **POWER** of Toxic Talk. *James 3:2-12*

The Tongue's Power Illustrated

- Power to **DIRECT** our entire life. (vv. 2-5a)

Illustration: *The Little Bit & Mighty Horse, The Tiny Rudder & Big Ship*

- Power to **DESTROY** entire lives! (v. 5b)

Illustration: *The Little Spark & Huge Fire*

"People with sharp tongues end up cutting their own throat!"

- To **DEFILE** entire lives! (v. 6)

Illustration: *A Fire Set on Fire by Hell Fire*

- Its **CAPACITY** for evil is unmatched.

"And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity;"

- Its **CORRUPTION** is an infectious virus. *Matthew 15:11*
"the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body"
- Its **COURSE** can last for generations beyond the moment spoken.
"and sets on fire the course of our life,"
- Its **CORE** is the very fire of hell itself!
"and is set on fire by hell."

- Power to **DEFY** every human effort to control it! (vv. 7-8)

Illustration: *The Untamable Beast*

Illustration: *The Unruly Evil, Full of Deadly Poison*

- Power to **DISPLAY** the true condition of our hearts! (vv. 9-12)

Illustration: *A Spring, a Fig Tree & a Grapevine*

The true source of toxic talk is our **HEART!**

Our speech is the outward evidence of our inward condition.

2. The **PRIORITY** of Daily Detox. *James 3:1-2*

Daily Detox with Our Triune God

- Ask the Father for wisdom to **T.H.I.N.K.** before you speak.
James 1:19; 1:5; Ephesians 4:29
- Trust the Son who is the gospel to **CHANGE** your talk.
James 2:26; Ephesians 4:17-25
- Submit to the Spirit to **CONTROL** your tongue.
James 4:7-10; Ephesians 5:18-21

*Because your heart is filled with toxic talk,
make it a priority to daily detox with the gospel of our Triune God!*

[See Handout.]

DAILY DETOX

Steps for Taking the Poison Out of Your Toxic Talk!

My Priority to Daily Detox with Our Triune God

Because my heart is filled with toxic talk, I will make it a priority to daily detox with the gospel of our Triune God.

God the Father, give me wisdom to T.H.I.N.K. before I speak.

James 1:19; 1:5; Ephesians 4:29

T - Is it **TRUE**?
H - Is it **HELPFUL**?
I - Is it **INSPIRING**?
N - Is it **NECESSARY**?
K - Is it **KIND**?

God the Son, I trust You as my "good news" to change my talk.

James 2:26; Ephesians 4:17-25

God the Spirit, I submit to Your leading to control my tongue.

James 4:7-10; Ephesians 5:18-21

A Deeper Diagnosis of My Toxic Talk



Pick Your Poison!

Identify which kind(s) of toxic talk you struggle to control.

- Talking too much: *Gossip, Slander*
- Talking dishonestly: *Lying, Telling "White Lies", Deceiving*
- Talking harshly: *Complaining, Criticizing, Murmuring*
- Talking proudly: *Boasting, Flattery, Exaggerating*
- Talking crudely: *Cursing, Using God's Name in Vain, Sensual Talk*
- Talking flippanantly: *Talking Sarcastically, Cynically, Scornfully, Carelessly*



Check Yourself in for Rehab!

Make controlling your toxic talk your top priority.

*Spiritual maturity is measured by a tamed tongue
due to a surrendered heart!*

- Surrender your **heart** to the Lord to be **teachable**. *Psalm 19:14*
*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."*
- Submit your **tongue** to the Lord to be **tamed**, especially in those areas you have identified! *Romans 6:12-14*

Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.



Take Your Anti-toxin!

Renew your mind to transform your heart and tame your tongue.

- Matthew 15:18-19** But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts,
- James 1:19** This you know, my beloved brethren...everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger.
- James 1:26** If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless.
- James 3:2** For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.
- Psalm 39:1** I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."
- Psalm 19:14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.
- Proverbs 12:18** There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- Proverbs 10:20** The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver, The heart of the wicked is *worth* little.
- Proverbs 10:31** The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, But the perverted tongue will be cut out.
- Proverbs 12:18** There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing. 19 Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.
- Proverbs 15:2** The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
- Proverbs 15:4** A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.
- Proverbs 16:1** The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
- Proverbs 17:4** An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.
- Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.
- Proverbs 21:23** He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.
- Proverbs 25:15** By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, And a soft tongue breaks the bone.
- Proverbs 25:23** The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.
- Proverbs 26:28** A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.
- Proverbs 28:23** He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor Than he who flatters with the tongue.
- Psalm 35:28** And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness *And* Your praise all day long.
- Psalm 119:172** Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.
- Psalm 15**